



PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 8049-0010-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#15  
4-17-03  
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In re Application of: )  
Oscar L. AVANT et al. ) Group Art Unit: 2876  
Application No.: 09/651,323 ) Examiner: Ahshik KIM  
Filed: August 31, 2000 )  
For: APPARATUS AND METHODS )  
FOR IDENTIFYING A MAILPIECE )  
USING AN IDENTIFICATION )  
CODE )

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

Copies of the listed documents, including any copending patent applications, are attached.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the

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documents as prior art against any claims in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: April 9, 2003

By: Lionel M. Lavenue  
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